

Country	Cameroon
Working title	Ambition and reality of participatory protected area approaches using Cameroon as an example
Research cooperation partner	KfW Development Bank (KfW Entwicklungsbank)
Region	Lobéké-National Park; southeast Cameroon
Background	<p>Protected areas like national parks were in most cases established long before the time of financial co-operation. Generally speaking, the guidelines of <i>voluntariness and inclusion of the indigenous population with regards to the protection goals</i> were not followed. Some cases even saw the usage of exclusionary approaches (<i>fine and fence</i> methods). Today co-management of resources is the standard procedure, which combines protection and simultaneous sustainable usage by the indigenous population. Because sustainable protection cannot succeed if it is in conflict with the will of the local population, participatory management of protected areas is <i>state-of-the-art</i>. Using this technique, a situation which is not only advantageous on a global or national scale, but also benefits the local (partly indigenous) population with long term pros outweighing the cons.</p> <p>Although this approach is very convincing in theory and works in the long run, the practical implementation often faces diverse problems. For example, protected area management often only brings lower, broad (income) benefits for the local population than anticipated. This often results in conflicts, not only in Africa.</p> <p>Lobéké-National Park is about preserving species-rich woodlands and their biodiversity. The population is dependent on the outputs of these forests among others with regards to stabilizing the water supply and climate.</p>
Goals	Elaboration of concrete propositions for a better inclusion of the interests of the local (indigenous) population, including autochthonous groups, in new financial co-operation-backed protected areas and the management of these areas.
Methods/ Expected results	<p>Stakeholder-analysis, Do-not-harm analysis, comparing protection-/utilization concepts and identifying pitfalls / promising measures.</p> <p>Practical recommendations are pronounced, how “neighbor promoting measures” (income increasing, health, education etc.) can improve and become more efficient. Also, it has to be examined, how autochthonous groups should be treated in comparison to other ethnic groups by e.g. donors, in order to minimize conflicts.</p> <p>In the context of protected area management, it will be necessary to ask how the inclusion of the population can succeed, aiming at reducing activities which collide with the park rules, like hunting the local animal population.</p>
Research cooperation partner	KfW-Development Bank, World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF), <i>Wildlife Conservation Society</i> (WCS), indigenous population
Team expertise	Multidisciplinary Team (7 pp.): Desirable are abilities in the areas of conflict and peace research, conflict regulation and -prevention, mediation, concepts of nature conservation and integrated forestry development, indigenous populations, agriculture and hunting, natural resource management, qualitative social research, stakeholder analysis, interest in Africa and the French language, no fear of cost calculations, open nature and conflicts.
Team leader	<p>Dr. Cosmas Kombat (38 j): Ecological Economist, co-team leader and Cameroonian master graduates are under discussion.</p> <p>Backstopping: Dr. Susanne Neubert</p>